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Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00
COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-11
TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01
NSC-05 SS-15 STR-07 CEA-01 PA-01 /112 W
----------119145 220229Z /75
R 201036Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3254
INFO USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
AMEMBASSY MADRID

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, EAID, GH.: CUE
SUBJ: CUBAN ECONOMIC TEAM VISITS GHANA

REF: 77 HAVANA 0480 (NOTAL)

1. LOCAL PRESS REPORTS THAT A THREE-PERSON CUBAN DELEGATION ARRIVED ACCRA APRIL 18 FOR A THREE DAY VISIT TO DISCUSS ECONOMIC COOPERATION. LEADER OF DELEGATION, NILO PORTELA REYES, DIRECTOR, DEPT OF AFRICA AND ASIA, STATE COMMITTEE FOR ECEOMIC, SCIENTIFICA AND TECHNICAL COLLABORATION, TOLD NEWSMEN THAT DELEGATION WOULD HOLD TALKS WITH GHANAIAN AUTHORITIES IN FIELDS OF AGRICULTURE, SUGAR IFODUCTION AND TIMBER INDUSTRY. OTHER MEMBERS OF TEAM ARE DR. NANCY LOYOLS, AN EXPERT ON WEST AFRICA, AND DR. OLANDO FERNANDEZ. SENIOR ADVISOR FOR COLLABORATION IN FIELD OF AGRICULTURE, BOT OF STATE COMMITTEE.

2. DELEGATION IS EXPECTED TO MEET WITH MINISTRIES OF ECONOMIC PLANNING, TRADE, AGRICULTURE, FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND
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INDUSTRIES AND WITH OFFICIALS OF BANK OF GHANA, CAPITAL INVESTMENT BOARD AND ASUTSUARE SUGAR FACTORY. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) OFFICERS TOLD PRESS THAT DELEGATION IS "HIGH-OWERED"; THIS IS SAID TO SIGNIFY "THE IMPORTANCE CUBA ATTACHES TO SUCH MATTERS AS ECONOMIC COOPERATION." DELEGATION VISITED FREETOWN BEFORE COMING TO ACCRA. IT WILL LEAVE HERE APRIL 21 FOR SPAI.

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3. COMMENT: ACCORDING TO PRESS, THIS IS THE FIRST CUBAN DELEGATION TO VISIT GHANA SINCE NKRUMAH WAS OVERTHROWN IN 1966. IT FOLLOWS OCTOBER 1977 VISIT TO CUBA BY GHANAIAN COMMISSIONER (MINISTER) FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS FELLI (REFTEL) AND APPEARS TO BE CHIEFLY AN EXPLORATORY EFFORT TO DEVELOP SOME ECONOMIC TIES BETWEEN CUBA AND GHANA. MFA TELLS US THAT THIS VISIT HAS LITTLE POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE. CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTER WAS SCHEDULED TO PAY A RETURN VISIT TO GHANA IN FEBRU Y 1978, BUT HAD TO CANCEL AT LAST MINUTE DUE TO OTHER (UNIDENTIFIED) COMMITMENTS. MFA SEES VISIT OF THIS ECONOMIC DELEGATION AS A MODEST STEP TO KEEP CONTACTS ALIVE BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. AT PRESENT WE ARE INCLINED TO SHWGE THIS IEW BUT WILL REPORT FURTHER ON ACTIVITIES OF DELEGATION AND FRUITS, IF ANY, OF ITS LABORS.
SMITH

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